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BAD TIMES.

THE everlasting cry of bad times is one of the most curious specimens of popular error that we know of, and might almost be held to indicate a radical deficiency in the powers of the human understanding. We do not recollect any period so happy, but what the cry of bad times was general: it was so, as we distinctly recollect, during even that period of unnatural prosperity immediately before the conclusion of the late war. The only explanation that can be given to so self-evident a delusion, is, that it originates with the unfortunate and the imprudent—always a large body—and is readily echoed by those who are otherwise, in order (if we may use the expression of the old Highland laird) "to keep the rest off them." The unprosperous save their self-love by putting it all upon the times; and the prosperous save their gains by pretending to be poor likewise: with the one set it is an excuse; with the other it is a defence: and so the fallacy spreads.

The complaints of the labouring portions of the community regarding the increasing severity of their lot, are entitled to more respect, for their case is a new one, and it is befitting that statistical inquirers should endeavour to ascertain how far the system of monotonous labour, which now obtains in large masses of the community, is compatible with their moral and physical happiness. It may be a grinding toil which is generally endured by these masses; and we are not prepared to say, that, considering the complete abandonment of liberty which is part of his condition, the workman is in general paid better, or, to use an expressive phrase, is better off than his forefathers relatively were. If a condition of labour, however, attended by a considerable share of personal comforts, be better than a condition of comparative idleness, unattended by nearly so large a share of those appliances, the labourer of the present day has no title to cry out, "Bad times."

One of the grand causes of this fallacy is the ignorance of the majority of the people regarding any other time than the present. If the middle classes knew how poorly, in comparison, their predecessors lived—if the labouring classes knew what unutterable hardships and discomforts were endured by those who have gone before them in the same humble but useful walk of life—there would be much less of this standing charge against the present age.

We need go to no country more distant than our own, nor to any remoter period than what is recollected by thousands of persons yet living, to find abundance of proof, that in all the conveniences of life the present time is incomparably superior to the past. We shall take the condition of the poor as the best criterion, because the richer sort of people can at all times command advantages which render the progress of domestic comfort less perceptible in their instance. The change from the lumbering and hard-bottomed elbow-chair to the soft settee, is much less decisive of the point at issue, than that from a dwelling, where the snow blew into the chimney-nook, to a snug cottage, both air-tight and water-tight. The houses of the peasantry fifty or sixty years ago were deficient in comfort, to a degree that ought to make those who extol past times shudder and hold their peace. Constructed of mud, of turf, or of alternate layers of turf and stone without any cement, and with thinly thatched roofs, they were pervious at almost every point to wind and rain. Built in numerous instances at the bottom of steep slopes, with the door on the side toward the hill, there was little more than a yard or a yard and a half between the front wall and the bank

of earth formed in digging the foundation. This bank rose as high as the eaves; so that the passage to the house was more like a deep ditch than any thing else. Nor did it want water in the bottom to complete the resemblance: when heavy rains fell, or during the melting of snows, the moisture, dripping down the side of the mountain, poured into this receptacle, and frequently entered the house, causing not only a present inconvenience by extinguishing the fire on the hearth, imprisoning children in beds, and obliging cats to embark for safety on stools or other floating furniture, but when the deluge receded, it left the earthen floor in a state of unhealthy dampness, which was never entirely removed during the driest months of the year. The discomfort was felt to be great; but the attachment to use and wont was such, that, instead of removing to a better situation when the erection of a new hovel was necessary, our excellent ancestors raised them on the same or a similar spot, and thought they had succeeded beyond measure well in devising a remedy, by leaving a conduit in the back wall through which the float-water might discharge itself. In winter these huts were often covered up with snow, so as entirely to debar egress or ingress. We have been told of a man, who, being absent during a fall of snow, found himself excluded from his own house on his return; and for a week the only communication he was able to hold with his family, was by entering an outhouse and speaking and thrusting his hand through a hole in the end wall. Two of his children lay in the same bed, ill of small-pox, at the time, and every morning the blankets above them were strewn with a layer of snow, drifted through the crannies of the crazy mansion.*

Where a dwelling was not exposed to the influx of running water, it was at least sure to admit moisture plentifully from above. The story of James Allen, the celebrated Northumberland piper, shows but too truly the condition of the thatched roofs throughout the country about the period referred to: Being asked by some gentlemen, who visited him on a wet day, while the rain was discharged in unobstructed bucketfuls about the ears of himself and family, why he did not endeavour to make his residence more habitable, by closing up the holes in the roof, he replied, "In weather like this, it is impossible to work, and when the season is fine the house does not need any repairs." Even where the roof was well kept, according to the ideas then prevalent, a long course of boisterous weather found or made numerous crevices, by which the rain penetrated. The reader is to remember, that, in the houses spoken of, nothing intervened between the floor and the roof; ceiling or "lofting" there was none; and as every chimney refused to carry off any thing but the smallest piping of smoke, that detested substance filled the cottage, first curling over the heads of the inmates, and then investing them down to the ground with its eye-vexing, "hoast-provoking" folds. On looking in by a window, after nightfall, upon a company seated round the fireside, with their slender taper dimly burning in the midst of this lurid atmosphere, their persons appeared distorted, their faces disfigured and discoloured, and they resembled a set of demons met in unholy con-

clave, rather than a party of worthy Scottish peasants enjoying a cheerful crack beside the winter ingle. But this was not the worst of it: the smoke crusted every beam and rafter with a thick coating of soot; and when the wet soaked through the roof, the drops blackened every thing upon which they fell. Then were called into requisition every "weicht" and broad dish in the house, which were placed all about the joists, and on the tops of the beds, to preserve the furniture, the dresses of the family, and the food they were eating, from the pollution of the sable shower. While the storm lasted, the drops pattered and plunged in the vessels, which were emptied as soon as it was discovered that the contents began to overflow, and a strong sooty odour was diffused into every corner of the dwelling.

Many huts of the old construction still remain to attest the truth of this description. But they are disappearing; and we would ask those who grumble on account of the increasing wretchedness of the times, whether they would propose, as a means of putting a stop to its farther progress, to discontinue the building of the neat little edifices, with walls of stone and lime, and slated roofs, which are fast rooting out these miserable dwellings from every glen-head, at least in the southern parts of Scotland?

If the immediate ancestors of our peasantry were, in point of lodging, so much worse off than their descendants, their food and clothing were equally inferior. Agriculture was in a pitiable state. There was no proper system of manuring the ground, nor of alternating crops. The fields were not sheltered by fences. Seasons were not observed with care; nor was labour regulated with any degree of precision—nothing was begun in time, nor finished in time. Sometimes servants worked extremely hard and very long hours; at others they loitered indolently about the house, wasting days in idle conversation or amusements with their master. A piece of ground was ripped up with the plough here and there on the hill-sides; the seed, most probably of indifferent quality, was flung in late; and strict injunctions were issued to the shepherd—alas, how vainly!—not to allow a single ewe to nip a single corn-stalk. When harvest came, no crop could present a more hopeless appearance; it was only half-ripe, thin, and stunted; trampled down and eaten by wild animals, as well as by those under the care of man; and the ears were switched off by the wind and weather. In this state it was cut, perhaps after the frosts and snows had set in; and, it may well be guessed, the grain was either wholly useless, or afforded food both scanty and extremely unhealthy. The consequence next season was commonly a famine and dearth; and people were driven to the most wretched means of subsistence. Butcher-meat was out of the question among the poor at that time; so nobody thought of fetching a sheep from the hill, and killing it for the use of his starving family, except perhaps he who possessed none of his own, and deemed it better to steal one than to die of hunger. Milk afforded a timely help to those who had a cow; but all such as were not so fortunate, had nothing else to depend upon but a few "lang kail," well nipt by the hares, in the corner of a fenceless garden, and wild roots, which they grubbed up in the fields. They could not plant a few early potatoes, to be coming forward as a resource before the beginning of harvest; for neither the late nor the early kind of potato had then come into common use. How would a modern admirer of past times, who never in the course of his life, except some twice or thrice by chance, missed a regular meal

* We may add that, in consequence of the coolness communicated by their snowy covering, these two children recovered with a rapidity quite unusual at the period; and this was one of the circumstances which tended to convince the people of the neighbouring district that patients suffering under that loathsome malady ought to be kept cool; it had previously been the practice, as all our readers are no doubt aware, to exclude fresh air from them with the greatest sollicitude, and to heap over them loads of bedclothes sufficient to kill by suffocation even a healthy person.

like to sit down for weeks to a dish of wild herbs, unskilfully culled, badly prepared, and insufficient in quantity? Would he exchange his fine linen for "straitlacing" fit to rasp the skin off a tender back? would he deliver up his superfine west of England blue coat, and invest himself with one of the coarsest home-made hoddens gray? or would he lay aside his neat and comfortable shoes and stockings, for the purpose of tramping it barefoot to church, and putting on a pair of the clumsiest construction on approaching the end of his journey?

So far as Scotland is concerned, this, we think, should be decisive. As to the comparative condition of the English peasantry in the past age and the present, we have not the means of drawing so accurate a contrast. It is ascertained, however, that the agricultural labourers of that country are equally well paid now as during the times of war-prices, while their employers are a great deal worse. And we have no doubt that the same change, upon the whole, as that experienced in Scotland, has taken place in the south also, though not in so amazingly short a space of time.

POWERS OF FASCINATION IN ANIMALS.

AMONG the most mysterious facts in nature, is the power of fascination which several classes of animals possess over others, for destructive or protective purposes. There must be few of even our juvenile readers who have not heard of this power as exerted by the rattlesnake, upon birds, squirrels, hares, and other small animals, which that serpent is in the habit of making its prey. It is said to fix its eyes upon its victim, and, opening its mouth, draws them slowly forward, trembling and fluttering with fear, but unable to restrain themselves, till they enter the yawning gulf, and are devoured. To appearance, the one creature overpowers the other by a mere exertion of the will, supposing that there is a will in animals, as we sometimes see a man of strong character draw a weaker brother into a course which ends in destruction. But this is less probable than a theory which has been formed upon observation of facts, by Major A. Gordon, of South Carolina, who, in a paper published in the New York Historical Society, attributes the fascinating powers of serpents to a vapour which they secrete, and which they throw around them to a certain distance at pleasure. Major Gordon states various facts in support of his opinion, and observes that the vapour produces a sickening and stupefying effect, and alludes to a negro, who, from a peculiar acuteness of smell, could discover a rattlesnake when in the exercise of this power, at the distance of two hundred feet, and who, following such indications, always found an animal drawn within its vortex, and struggling with its influence.

The rattlesnake, however, does not form the only class among the reptile species possessing the power of fascination. The American writers affirm that many of the larger kinds of snakes have also this power: and Vallaint, in his travels in Africa, asserts, that, at a place called Swartland, he was eye-witness to a shrike in the very process of being fascinated by a large serpent, the fiery eyes and open mouth of which it was gradually approaching with convulsive tremblings, and the most piteous shrieks of distress. Vallaint states, that the bird died before reaching the jaws which were open for it, killed either by fear or the overpowering effect of the vapour. The traveller measured the distance between them, and found it to be three and a half feet.

The sympathy which seems to exist between several of the organs of the human frame, is also as unaccountable as any of the phenomena we have now noticed. A small laceration in one of the fingers will produce a locked jaw; as, when the liver is diseased, a severe pain in the left shoulder is felt; yet why the jaw or the shoulder should be affected more than any other part of the system, still remains without any certain explanation. The effect of different poisons, when introduced into the stomach, is a further illustration of this wonderful sympathy. The infusion of tobacco applied to any part of the alimentary canal, almost instantaneously, and apparently by some other means than the circulation of the blood, destroys the action of the heart, while the brain and the other muscles of the system are comparatively but little affected. The essential oil of almonds, and the juice of acetic, on the contrary, destroy as rapidly the action of the brain, while the heart continues nearly its usual pulsations, not only during the symptoms, but even for some minutes after death has actually taken place. Many other poisons produce a similar diversity of effect: and the poison of the horned snake, which produces death in the course of a few hours, when introduced by a wound or a bite, may be tasted and swallowed without producing any bad effect.

There are some of the natives of Africa and America who possess the power of what is called "charming," or producing a benumbing or stupefying effect on poisonous serpents and scorpions, by handling them. This power is in some natural and hereditary, while in others it is acquired by chewing the roots or other parts of certain plants, rubbing them in their hands, or bathing their bodies in water containing an infusion of them. In that part of Africa which lies northward of the great desert of Sahara, there was formerly a tribe called the Psylli, who seem to have possessed this power, either from nature or art, in a degree that occasioned the name of Psylli to be given to all persons capable of producing similar effects. Plutarch informs us that Cato, in his march through the desert, took with him a number of these Psylli to suck out the poisons from the wounds of such of his soldiers as might be bitten by the numerous serpents which infested that region. It was then ignorantly believed that this power of subduing the poison was the effect of magic, and the Psylli, to confirm this belief, always, when in the exercise of this fascination, muttered spells or charmed verses over the person whom they were in the act of curing. Many have ventured to doubt the existence of this power being possessed by any class of people, but the concurrent testimony of the best-accredited travellers seems to confirm the fact. Mr Bruce distinctly states, from minute personal observation, that all the blacks in the kingdom of Sennar are perfectly armed by nature against the bite of either scorpion or viper. They take the horned snake (there the most common, and one of the most fatal of the viper tribe) in their hands at all times, put them in their bosoms, and throw them at each other, as children do apples and balls, during which sport the serpents are seldom irritated to bite, and if they do, no mischief ensues from the wound. The Arabs of the same country, he also observes, have not by nature this protective power, but generally acquire it, by the use of certain plants. The artificial means of rendering the person invulnerable to the bite of snakes, seems also to be practised in South America. Don Pedro D'Orbites Y. Vargas, a native of Santa Fé, published in 1791 a memoir of experiments which he instituted to ascertain the truth of this phenomenon. The plant, he tells us, chiefly used by the American Indians, is called the guano-mithy, from their having first observed that the bird of that name, or, as it is sometimes called, the serpent-hawk, usually sucked it before it attacked venomous serpents, which it could then do with impunity. Prepared by drinking a small portion of the juice of this plant, and inoculating themselves with it by rubbing it upon three small punctures, made in the hands, breast, and feet, Don Pedro himself, with all his domestics, were accustomed to venture into the fields, and fearlessly seize hold of the largest and most venomous serpents. It was seldom that the animal thus fascinated ever attempted to bite, or if it did, no evil consequence arose from the wound.

It may not be irrelevant here to allude to the common practice of charming trout and other fresh-water fishes, by rubbing the hands with assafetida, and gradually approaching the fish with it, which, in an intoxication of delight, seems to abandon every degree of caution, and, instead of flying from the coming danger, advances to meet it, as a leveret to the mouth of the rattlesnake; only in the case of the fish pleasure appears to be the predominating influence.*

There is a secret influence said to be possessed by some men, by which they can disarm the rage of the most vicious quadruped. Housebreakers have sometimes been known to exercise this power over watchdogs, the animal, while the robbery is committing, seemingly being under an influence of a quieting and sedative kind. The natives of Lapland and Dalame, it is affirmed, are in the possession of this secret generally, inasmuch that they can oblige the most furious dog to fly from them with all his usual signs of fear, such as dropping his tail and suddenly becoming silent. The power possessed by "Sullivan the Whisperer" over horses (described in a late number of the Journal) is also illustrative of this subject. Thus we see an effect of the most powerful kind produced by

* Among the instances of a fascinating or sympathetic power in other departments of nature, the most remarkable perhaps is that presented by the valeriana, an aquatic plant belonging to that order in which the male and female are classed separately. The male has a long spiral stem, by which its flowers are enabled to adapt themselves to the water, from the bottom of which the plants shoot forth, and to float in the middle of tide-streams of every variety of ascent. The stem of the female is shorter; and this species of the plant is only found in shallow water, or on shores where the tide exerts but little influence. As soon as the male flower has become perfected, the spiral stem dies away, and the flower separating itself from it, floats with the stream or wind over the water; until, at a certain distance from the spot occupied by the female flower, it is attracted with an influence so strong as to oppose with success the power of the stream or wind, which otherwise would carry it in a different direction. From whence this phenomenon arises, is altogether unknown; the most plausible cause ascribed, is, that the attraction is produced by a peculiarity of odour, which, though unknown, these plants may inherit.

Among fishes, several of them have powers of exercising upon their enemies a fascination, which enables them not only to escape from the threatened danger, but also gives them a facility of securing the animals, which they in their turn destined for their prey. The torpedo ray has the power of throwing a benumbing sensation upon the arm of the fisherman, through the hook, the line, and rod, which he is using; and, what is still more extraordinary, the fish has the power either of inflicting or withholding the shock which thus disarms his enemy. This animal is frequently found on the wet sands after the tide has retired; he buries himself in it by means of his fins, which serve to throw the sand over him; and even when hidden in this manner, he is said to have the power of striking with sudden torpor the casual wayfarer who may be passing over him.

one animal upon another, without being able to trace the medium of operation by which the consequences are made visible. The only mode by which this mysterious control can in any way be accounted for, is that adopted by Major A. Gordon, of which we have already spoken, viz., that, either by an inherent or acquired power, the controlling animal is enabled to emanate the absorbing influence which thus subdues or stupefies its victims.

THE GENTEEL YOUNG MAN, A TALE.

WILLIAM FREDERICK COOK was an exceedingly genteel good-looking young man, about twenty years of age, the son of a tradesman in London, who had an idea he should make his boy something above wearing an apron and sleeves, by sending him to schools at which the classics were taught. Accordingly, when Master William's education was finished, or, more properly speaking, when the expenses could no longer conveniently be endured, he came home, and, considering himself a miracle of learning and gentility, strutted, spouted Latin, thought his father was a fool, consulted his mirror like some of the other sex, who think fortunes may be made by face and figure, became a regular cultivator of whiskers, and spurs, and, consequently, a gentleman.

He was occasionally at places of amusement, but regularly in the family pew at St George's, and was considered a youth good as he was handsome, till it was discovered that he was thus regular in his attendance at church to eye the daughter of a gentleman of fortune, who as constantly was seen in her family pew on the opposite side of the aisle. Every Sunday, an ocular correspondence was kept up between this pair, till, tired of mere vision, they met, spoke, and were in ecstasies with each other. Young Mr Cook was determined to make the most of this promising adventure. He was penniless, had no profession wherewith to support himself, no species of patrimony to look for—nothing, in short, to depend on but his whiskers, his spurs, his gentility, and his beautiful fine-sounding name. This, therefore, was a capital chance of entrapping a young lady with what are called "good expectations"—a chance not to be lost sight of. Miss Louisa Heavyside, at the same time, could think of nothing but William Frederick Cook, because he was such a very handsome young man, and had such a very pretty double Christian name. She believed that marriages were made in heaven—that it would be the height of human felicity if she could be so fortunate as to secure such an elegant young gentleman as her husband. She was about eighteen, and somewhat romantic—considered manly beauty the first and only requisite in a husband—therefore, to such a man there could be no possible objection. She was confident they loved each other; therefore everyone should strive to produce a union fraught with such an enviable share of happiness.

Her parents, however, entertained opinions not in agreement with these joyous notions. They ascertained who this William Frederick Cook was, his disposition, and his prospects in life. They then represented the impropriety of such a connection, but without effect. Louisa said, Mr William Frederick Cook was a scholar, and an elegant and a handsome young man. Her determination to speak enthusiastically of him, and his resolution to write in the most impassioned style to her, induced her parents to send her on a distant visit, by way of what is called putting a girl out of harm's way; and so cautiously were the movements made, that young Mr Cook could not discover when or whether his dear Louisa had been dispatched. In a state of anxiety and hopelessness, he began to think his fair prospect blighted. He bribed all Mr Heavyside's servants without obtaining the least information. He sought at every place where post-horses could have been engaged; but he could obtain no tidings to cast one ray of hope on his despair.

Louisa had been conveyed to Chichester, in Sussex, and there placed under the care of an uncle and aunt, till her frenzy should have subsided. They were attentive to their charge, and tried the soothing, the reasoning, and the threatening modes, without success. Louisa was inconsolable and sullen. She thought that "fathers have flinty hearts"—that all the promised ages of bliss were lost. It was certain to bring her to an early tomb.

In the depth of this despair, Love, all-powerful Love, lent Louisa his aid. Her servant's heart he softened. A feather, plucked from a quarter of a hundred of quills, at six shillings the hundred, spread, in Scott's liquid black, certain feeling hieroglyphics, swollen with tears, all over a sheet of gilt-edged post, and the mail-bag conveyed the dear epistle with such correctness, that the sad William Frederick started at once into consciousness of existence. Swift as the stage-coach could waft him, and the girl Hannah could arrange it, he was saluting his Louisa's tear-wet cheek. This was like magic! Raised from despair to joys unutterable, in despite of counteract-

ing magicians, in the shapes of aunts, servants, locks, keys, and bolts! Love truly laughs at locksmiths.

By the help of Hannah, meetings, happy and delightful because forbidden, continued undetected. What blissful days! All was charming—too flattering sweet to be substantial. Louisa's aunt was not a young lady; and although years might have taken away her good looks, she kept a good look-out, and, putting her finger to her nose, cogitated on the sudden change in Louisa's manner. To go so frequently a-shopping alone—to stay from home so much longer than necessary—to dislike interrogatories, and yet be cheerful! All this was not exactly according to the strict principles of moral sentiment. Suspicion in an aunt presently becomes accusation. Aunts in authority endure no restraint: they are of course despots. Power, on being replied to unobsequiously, feels angry, and vindictive people despise argument when they can apply force. Louisa was contumacious, and in consequence endured close confinement. This was a shock that shattered the nerves of both lovers: their hearts were rent in twain: every string was severed.

Hannah, however, was still the mediator. She wafted the sighs to the miserable Mr Cook, and he wrote nonsense verses—not in Latin, though he could do either equally well. One truth he never forgot to state—he could not live without her. How full of truth and feeling was this declaration! If the world were one vast chrysolite, and hers, she would give it for him, most enchanting man! In another sense, the declaration was quite true; for Mr Cook had in reality lived for some time upon subsidies raised from the resources of his mistress, and, besides her fortune, had no means of livelihood in the world.

All this amiable young adventurer's hopes of turning the speculation to a good account, now revived. He brushed up his whiskers and his Eton grammar, in proof that he was a man of refinement. But happiness is not to be taken by storm. The aunt, the unfeeling aunt, was ever on the alert. The holding of a correspondence with a captive, in spite of the governess who held the keys of the citadel, was provoking to the last degree. Determined to put a stop to this intercourse, she renewed her vigilance, and at length observed Hannah more than particularly busy one morning with something like a letter. The aunt hastened to the apartment of Louisa, whom she found singing

"For tenderness forned."

Without ceremony, the aunt closed the door, and waited like a tigress to spring upon her prey. Hannah unsuspectingly opened the door, saying, "Here's the letter, miss." The aunt caught it from the outstretched hand, and, in contempt of the post-office denunciations, broke open the seal, and read all she could. The old lady looked perfectly petrified: Louisa sunk back in her chair; and Hannah vanished. The aunt left the chamber, slamming the door after her so violently, that the windows rattled. Every one in the house rushed to the stairs, and heard that Hannah's boxes were to be examined instantly, her wages paid, and she forthwith bundled out of the house. Searching at the custom-house wharves is a mere glance, compared with this examination. Three sovereigns were found in a little box, and one of them had a mark, which the aunt recognised as that identical sovereign she received in change when she paid her grocer's bill, and which had been paid to Louisa, with others, for pocket-money. How clear that these were the rewards of perfidy! How could the officers of justice be directed to proceed? "Why," replied the uncle, "neither be angry, nor talk nonsense; if you disapprove of Louisa's conduct, send her back to her father, and do not let the tranquillity of my house be disturbed by such vagaries." This was determined to be carried into effect as soon as possible; and the aunt insisted that Hannah should be sent off instantly, which was accordingly done.

The uncle, on investigation, perceived great perseverance in his niece's correspondent; he disliked being her jailor, seeing the impossibility of fulfilling the duties, and he determined on seeing the genteel young man at the inn where he had taken up his quarters, in opposition to the advice of his lady, who thought a very different treatment proper for such an impertinent fellow. The uncle having called on Mr Cook, saw him a youth of fine features, good figure, and of prepossessing manners; and in the course of conversation, felt himself somewhat in the back-ground, while quotations from the examples in the Eton grammar were interspersed without rhyme or reason, to all of which the old gentleman could only umph, and wish himself well out of the house. He learned, however, that William Frederick Cook was resolved to love Louisa eternally, and so took his leave much dissatisfied with his visit. He now wrote to Louisa's father, explaining all the particulars; gave her twenty pounds, and saw her with her handboxes placed in the coach for London, stating to the coachman that he should see the young lady safely delivered as directed.

But Mr Cook was not to be baffled. By spies in the house, he knew all the movements of the family, and took proceedings accordingly. He joined Louisa on the road, having previously taken his place, and they concerted measures by which to prevent others from thwarting or interfering with their happiness.

It was long before the hurricane had subsided in the aunt's mind, every circumstance being in a course of aggravated repetition. What had Louisa done with

the money that had found its way to her?—and then she enumerated several sums presented to her by wealthy relatives. Why, as she lived, they amounted to eighty-four pounds six shillings and sixpence. Astonishing! And upon this came the astounding fact, that her uncle had given her twenty more at her departure! making one hundred and four pounds six shillings and sixpence!—her voice gradually increasing in shrillness as she repeated the enormous amount. All of which was to be lavished on that sneaking villain! Perhaps it went to pay his extravagance at the Black Lion. Oh! he was a precious swindler, certainly: Louisa would make a fine affair of it. He would soon be sick of her, a silly love-sick stupid girl. She was heartily glad to have wiped her hands of such impertinent misses. Girls now were not what they used to be. One hundred and four pounds six shillings and sixpence in about a month! Such a mean rascal.

Cash to this amount, as appeared in the aunt's memorandum book, had been disposed of as suspected; for Louisa valued nothing but as it might contribute to the enjoyments of her dear William Frederick, and had left her purse without a coin, till the fortunate supply by her uncle.

During a month, occupied in sighing and dying, as Louisa thought, Mr William Frederick Cook had lived like a prince at the Black Lion, enjoying all the rural sports of the season, and often as drunk with wine as with love. His attachment, indeed, was of the most heartless description; and though he must have been more or less than man to have altogether contemned the affection which his mistress displayed for him, he certainly was much more interested in her fortune, or at least to the means which she furnished for supplying him with the paltry indulgences in which he delighted.

They were overjoyed at meeting on the road. The licence and the ring, which had often been spoken of and written about, were now exhibited, and proposed to be brought into action. An opportunity soon occurred such as might never again be presented. It was considered unwise not to take advantage of the moment. Accordingly, by a little artifice, such as is ever resorted to when any thing clandestine is to be executed, the genteel William Frederick Cook and Miss Louisa Heaviside were indiscreetly married, at St George's Church, without the knowledge of any part of the young lady's family, although residing in the parish. The festivities on the occasion were kept at the house of old Mr Cook, who saw in this union the fulfilment of his hopes in the advancement of his son. The new-married pair were supplied from his diminishing funds, willingly, because there could be no doubt of a reconciliation with Louisa's family in a short time, and then all would go well on the road to prosperity. But to produce this was an undertaking surrounded by difficulties. To express penitence for a wilful act, by which the perpetrator might alone be benefited, required a greater share of impudence than Mr William Frederick could muster. In this case, Louisa wrote, though not after the genuine dictates of her own simple heart, with diffidence, or submission, or hope of forgiveness; but merely an announcement of their intention to call on their return to town.

Before the expiration of many weeks, the happy pair paid their visit of ceremony to Louisa's father and mother. To meet with unkindness had not occurred to the tutored mind of Mr Cook, although it had been suggested as possible to the sensitive Louisa. They experienced the rebuke and the contempt of a haughty man, who found his intentions thwarted by a designing and heartless villain. They heard the cold expressions of astonishment at their presuming to appear where they had offered such insult. At this expression, the elegant young husband ventured to express his claim to the character of a gentleman, whom Louisa had considered herself justified in selecting as her husband, and said that neither had to regret what had occurred. Unfortunately this partook more of rudeness than propriety. Louisa's mother and sister left the room with all the signals of insulted dignity, and with a parting glance of contempt. Mr Heaviside inquired of Mr Cook the means by which he intended to meet the expenditure resulting from his marriage. This was a trying question for a genteel young man without a profession; he replied, "that he was a scholar," and made up the rest by a string of Latin quotations. "Young man," interrupted Mr Heaviside, "either you cannot express yourself in your native tongue, or you wish to make some impression on my mind, by your smattering knowledge of the classics. If you knew how contemptible you appear, your lower-form absurdities would be expunged from your memory. I know you well." "Sir," replied the high-spirited William Frederick Cook, "you know, then, that I am not solicitous to obtain the pity of any one." "Go, rash man," said Mr Heaviside, "for you are worse than a beggar, and never let me see you more."

Silent and slowly they left the house, the door of which never opened again to receive them. They both secretly felt how much they had transgressed, and that they were driven on the world nearly destitute. Yet they endeavoured to excite in each other the hope that shortly a reconciliation would restore them to what they deemed their just expectations, and then every debt would be paid, and they should yet be happy. Idle dreams! The pride of appearance sustained them under many privations; but the world,

that looked on with an affected smile of commiseration during their distress, finding there was no thought of honest industry, looked coolly upon them, and pity was soon superseded by just contempt.

This infatuated pair subsequently passed a period of wretchedness in a village within a few miles of London, occasionally supplied by Louisa's uncle with small sums to extricate them from pressing emergencies. Mr Heaviside and his family departed from England, and in a short time he died, without the name of his undutiful daughter being mentioned in his will. This was a death-blow to all the hopes of these miserable victims of passion on the one hand, and evil designs on the other. The relations of both had now been completely wearied out with their applications, and declared their resolution to afford no further assistance, be the consequences what they might. As for the elder Mr Cook, he was already drained of every shilling he possessed. After this, the husband of the deluded Louisa proved, by his idleness and his debauched habits, that he was one of the most worthless of beings. The poor forlorn wife at last discovered how egregious had been her folly in trusting to mere external appearances in her choice of a husband, and in making that selection without the approval of those seniors who were better able to judge, and had a right to do so from their interest in her fate. Fortunately she was not doomed to linger out a painful existence. In giving birth to an infant in a miserable apartment in the village in which she and her husband had taken up their abode, the want of attention, of comfort of any kind, and even of the necessities of life, terminated at once her existence and her miseries. As for the monster who had thus blighted the prospects of a tender and confiding female, he soon after was compelled to flee from his country in dread of the vengeance of its outraged laws.

The moral of this too true tale is, that young ladies should beware of forming engagements with genteel-looking young men hanging loose upon society, who do not become acquainted with them in a regular manner, and whose addresses do not meet with the approbation of their parents. In the case of a young lady of fortune, or with "good expectations," this danger is to be especially avoided, for those contingencies render it impossible for her to discover whether she is the object of a real attachment, or only the means contemplated for enriching a needy and perhaps unprincipled adventurer. The state of public feeling on this subject is not what it should be. Whether from the erroneous colouring too often given to it in works of fiction, or from a natural pleasure in seeing those above us degraded to an inferior station, many persons like very well to hear of a penniless young man having been successful in forming a clandestine alliance with a young lady either possessed of or with prospects of fortune. Our sympathies, we must confess, go all the other way. We conceive, that, to practise on the affections of an ignorant and inexperienced female, and induce her to do that which will bring pain and humiliation to the whole circle of her connections, is no honourable way of bettering one's self in life—that, on the contrary, he who injures his neighbour in this manner, is only restrained by the law from injuring him in some other way, less severe perhaps to the injured, though not so safe to the injurer. Marriages, to be happy, must be nearly equal—equal alike in the fortunes of the individuals, and in their ages, tempers, and other personal qualities; and it can certainly never be good for either party that this rule is infringed in any respect. We, therefore, consider every youth who deliberately inveigles a woman of superior rank into matrimony as simply a prudent kind of rogue, who seeks for advantages to himself, at the risk of misery to the person chiefly concerned, and at the expense of wounded feelings and a certain kind of degradation to all connected with her.

SCRAPS FROM ANTIQUITY.

By William Tennant, Esq. Author of "Anster Fair."

EGYPTIAN LAWS.

The Egyptians, a wise people, to whom Europe is indebted for the best of her institutions, had some singular laws, peculiar, indeed, to themselves, but founded on the deepest reflection and happiest views of state policy. Every man of the Egyptians was ordered to give in to the magistrate to whose authority he was subjected, an account of the ways and means whereby he derived a livelihood, and maintained himself alone, or himself and family together; and the punishment of death was considered due to him who either falsified his return, or refused it. Solon, who travelled into Egypt for the sake of deriving wisdom from conversing with her wise men, transferred this law to Athens. It would appear, that, by the laws of Egypt, ignominious bodily labour was substituted in many cases for the severer punishment of death. One of their kings, by name Sabaco, recommended this substitution, seeing that, by the labour of the condemned culprit, advantage was derived to the state; whereas death not only was too severe, in most cases, for the frail peccabilities of mankind, but was utterly barren of utility, as well to the public as to the individual—a reflection highly honourable to the monarch of Thebes, and worthy of being acted upon by all the legislatures of Europe. Herodotus says, that condemned persons in Egypt seldom if ever suffered death, but were allowed to live, subjected, however, to severe bodily labour in the public works; and that

the mounds or artificial eminences, wherever, for the sake of protection from the inundations of the Nile, their cities were built, were the production of the labour of the criminals thus beneficially employed. The laws of another king, by name Bocharis, regarding debts and money transactions, are likewise founded on great good sense. Persons borrowing money, or sued as having borrowed money from others, without the accusing party having bond, bill, or recognition to prove the debt, are acquitted from it, on their giving their oaths they owe nothing.—[This enactment, we believe, has been transferred to every country.]—Of those, however, who were truly debtors, the creditor had it in his power to attach and distrain the goods only; his person was considered as sacred to the state, pledged, in common with his countrymen, for its defence and protection; therefore was secure, or ought to be secure, from the violations of an irritated creditor.

MICE.

Mice seem to have been regarded with some sort of superstitious reverence by the ancient people of the earth. In the Egyptian hieroglyphy, the figure of a mouse was understood to typify some unexpected and complete destruction by divine interposition. Apollo in Crete and the Troad, had the name of Smintheus, as being the patronising deity of these gentle animals, to whom he was supposed to have communicated some of his own talent of divination, so that they are enabled to foresee the destruction of the tenement in which they may happen to be lodged, and to make their escape in good time ere the tenement tumble—a faculty which we have transferred, less classically, to rats, a more unamiable and unpopular quadruped. Mice have obtained celebrity by being prominent agents in three transactions—two of profane, the third of divine history. Ashdod, in consequence of the captivity of the ark, was smitten with multitudes of mice; as a trespass-offering to remove which, five golden mice were presented to the judges of Israel by the lords of Philistia. Sennacherib's army, when on the point of invading Egypt, was, according to Herodotus, assailed by a countless army of these animals, who, by devouring their bowstrings, shield-straps, baggage, &c. foiled the invader, and incapacitated him for completing his object. On another later occasion, when a colony of the Teneri issued from Crete in quest of settlements in Asia Minor, they were encouraged and authorised, by an oracular response, to make their abode in that place, where the earth-born, or Indigenes, should emerge from their dens, and make an assault upon them. This happened to them near Amaxitus, a town of the Troad, where, as they lay encamped during the night-time, a countless host of field-mice emerged, swarming from underground, and began to nibble away the leathern part of their armour, their baggage, and eatables. Considering these indigenous creatures as the fulfilment of the oracle, they settled there; and erected a temple in Chrysa to Apollo Smintheus, or Apollo of the Mouse, with a statue of the god, appropriately having a figure of a mouse under his foot. Some geographers have thought that the country called Mysia had its name from this circumstance of the mouse.

DIOGENES.

Diogenes, surnamed the Dog, or the Cynic, was a native of Sinope, but lived for the greatest part of his life at Athens, where his usual domicile was a tub, or large hog-head, where he slept at night, and hoveled during the morning and evening, much to the amusement of the Athenian boys, who sometimes pelted at and broke down his wooden dormitory with stones. In every thing this man studied eccentricity—in his dress and doctrine, as well as his domicile. He went about with his scrip and staff as a mendicant, at the same time that he gave public lectures on the most abstruse and sublime themes of philosophy to the enlightened citizens of Athens. He wrote some tragedies, and many philosophical treatises, all of which are lost; so that nothing now remains of him but his sayings, which are quite enough to prove him to have been one of the most original, sarcastic, and powerful minds of antiquity. He excited the laughter of the Athenians, much to the prejudice of Plato his rival, by producing on the floor of his lecture-room a cock, denuded of wings and feathers, as an appropriate exemplification of the unfortunate definition of Cato, who had styled a man a *biped without wings*. "Behold," said he, to his amused audience, "here is Plato's man!" His rival was so ashamed that he corrected or retracted his definition. The eccentric sage of Sinope was wont to embrace in winter statues coated with ice and snow, to accustom himself, he said, to hardihood: for the same reason, he placed himself under roof-spouts in heavy rains, to benefit his constitution with an effectual cold bath. He, in his half-serious, half-jocular mendicating strolls, supplicated, sometimes, not for money, but for golden and brazen statues, that he might accustom himself to a refusal: from any avaricious person he happened to meet, he solicited as an alms no less than a *mina* (L. 3, 15s.), saying, that he begged and got smaller sums from generous persons, who gave to him often, but from misers, who gave but once, he would take no less a sum than he had mentioned. When asked how he wished to be buried—"With my face downward," he replied; "for in a little while every thing in this world will be turned upside-down." When invited by some person to supper, he said he would

not go, as last time he went the inviter was not sufficiently grateful for it. During his life, his reputation for strength of character and genius was such as to induce the victorious son of Philip to pay him a visit in his tub. The Macedonian introduced himself to him as the son of Philip, and king of Macedonia. The philosopher announced himself very simply as being but Diogenes the Dog. So strongly was Alexander impressed with the originality of his mental qualifications, that he left him with the extraordinary expression, that, were he not Alexander, he would fain be Diogenes. It is recorded that he died on the same day at Corinth with the Persian conqueror at Babylon.

THE SETTLERS OF THE WEST.

THE season for emigration is now some time past: the snows of winter now lie many feet in depth on most of the lands in Canada, and other northern portions of America. The great rivers and canals, which afford a ready communication with the country in the interior, are now frozen over with thick ice; and the settler and his family now sit around their wood fires in their log-huts and cabins, enjoying the plentiful though rude fare of the western wilderness and its clearings, or merrily drive along the hard surface of the snow in their carioles or sleighs. In this country, the nipping frosts, or plashing sleets and rains, so common at the close of the year, keep the hardy peasantry and working classes within doors at divers employments, and afford a period of relaxation, during which they may ruminate on their condition and prospects. Of all the seasons of the year, the present is the best suited for this species of meditation. Every man who depends for subsistence on the labour of his hands, and who has a difficulty in finding employment, should now, therefore, reflect on the advantages which might arise by removing to a much more extensive scene of exertion on the return of spring. To emigrate, is obviously the only course to be pursued by the many thousands of families in this country who are now straitened in their circumstances, yet have the power, as well as the inclination, to better their condition by moral and physical exertion. The time has long since come, when an over-abundant and impoverished population should feel it incumbent to take advantage of this ready and valuable means of relief from their urgent necessities. We again most earnestly press upon the labouring population of Great Britain the consideration of this to them important subject. Almost every day brings forth a body of new and useful facts regarding the increasing comforts of those who have already chosen to emigrate to countries suited for their settlement. Where those countries are, we have from time to time pointed out in general terms. The more that we hear or read of the nature and condition of the countries beyond the Atlantic, the more are we convinced that they hold out the bounteous offer of a place of comfortable settlement for all classes of persons who are willing to go thither, with a desire to succeed by the efforts of patient industry; and the more are we convinced of the folly of persons in destitute circumstances, though with the means of removal, remaining longer in Great Britain. Placing out of view the Canadas, and other British possessions, and also passing over those states in the Union which border on the Atlantic, there are extensive regions in the interior, admirably suited for receiving any number of settlers, no matter how many should go. Let a poor labouring man in this country, for instance, weigh in his mind what we are now going to tell him. Beyond the range of huge hills, called the Alleghany Mountains, in the United States, there lies an immense inner country larger than all Europe, and consisting of the finest land in the known world. In this extensive territory, there are *prairies*, or meadow lands, stretching for a thousand miles in length, by some hundreds of miles in breadth, covered with the most luxuriant herbage for pasturing cattle, and so thinly inhabited, so little occupied by settlers, that if all the people in this country were to emigrate thither, they would hardly be seen. Such is also the demand for labourers in this vast region, that if all the poor and all the labourers out of work in England, Scotland, and Ireland, were to proceed thither, and offer themselves as servants of one kind or another, they would every one of them be certain to get employment, and at wages far higher than they could possibly procure at home. And, what is more, if they had families of children growing up to be useful, they would be better off still. Let the labouring man, or mechanic, who is wearing down with vexation and poverty in this country, reflect coolly on the extraordinary advantages thus to be procured by emigration to the western states of North America.

The vast region beyond the Alleghany Mountains, through which flow the Mississippi, the Ohio, the Missouri, the Arkansas, and many other large rivers, with hundreds of a lesser size, is divided into separate states, each of which is as large as England or Scotland, if not some of them larger than the whole United Kingdom put together. The principal of these western territories are named Ohio, Indiana, Illinois,

Michigan, Missouri, Kentucky, Tennessee, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama, all of which will successfully engage our attention.* Into these large and fine districts are now poured the various tides of emigration from different points of the eastern or Atlantic states, some proceeding from Pennsylvania, by way of the Pennsylvania canal, towards Pittsburgh on the Ohio, by which they sail in different routes; some proceeding from the Canadian frontier by way of Sandusky on Lake Erie, whence there is a canal or other species of communication to the Ohio; and others proceeding by way of New Orleans on the south, and sailing in steam-boats on the Mississippi towards the various points of location in the interior. From the east, the north, and the south, innumerable crowds of emigrants, in boats, waggons, and on foot, are pressing continually forward, and filling up by slow degrees the immense territories of the west. Such indeed is the spirit of adventure and desire of settlement in the rich remote lands of the Union, that lately a thousand persons were to meet at St Louis, on the Mississippi, to form a company to cross the Rocky Mountains on the west, with a view to select locations on the slope towards the Pacific Ocean.

Whether approaching the interior by way of the Pennsylvania canal, or by Lake Erie from New York, emigrants very frequently make Pittsburgh a main centring point. Pittsburgh is a large flourishing town on the Ohio, celebrated for the extent of its trade and manufactures, and a place at which emigrants determine on their subsequent route. If bound to Indiana, Illinois, or Missouri, they either purchase a family boat, and float down the Ohio under their own guidance, or take their passage in a steam-vessel. The voyage down this large river is described as remarkably pleasant. While the emigrant from the south finds the autumnal and vernal season on the Ohio too cool, to the northerner it is temperate and delightful. When the first wreaths of morning mist are rolled away from the stream by the bright sun, disclosing the ancient woods, the hoary bluffs, and the graceful curves and windings of the long line of channel above and below, the rich alluvial belt, and the fine orchards on its shores, the descending voyagers must be destitute of the common perceptions of the beautiful, if they do not enjoy their voyage, and find the Ohio to be what the French called it, *La Belle Riviere*—the fine river.

After the emigrants have arrived at Cincinnati, another flourishing town on the Ohio, or at some other spot where they had anticipated to fix themselves, a preliminary difficulty is the determination to what quarter to repair. All the towns swarm with speculative companies and land agents; and the chance is, that the first inquiries for information in this perplexity will be addressed to them, or to persons who have a common understanding and interest with them. One advises to the Wabash, and points on the map to the rich lands, fine mill seats, navigable streams, and growing towns, in their vicinity. Another presents a still more alluring picture of the lands in some part of Illinois, Missouri, the region west of the lakes, and the lead mines. Another tempts him with White River, Arkansas, Red River, Opelousas, and Attakapas, the rich crops of cotton and sugar, and the escape from winter which they offer. In Cincinnati, more than in any other town, there are generally precursors from all points of the compass, to select lands for companies that are to follow.

When this slow and perplexing process of balancing, comparing, and fluctuating between the choice of rivers, districts, climates, and advantages, is fixed, after determination has vibrated backwards and forwards according to the persuasion and eloquence of the last adviser, until the purpose of the immigrant is rendered firm, the northern settler is generally borne to the point of debarkation nearest his selected spot by water, there being plenty of steam-boats proceeding in every required direction for his use. He thence hires the transport of his family and moveables to the spot, though not a few move all the distance in waggons, which process gives them an opportunity of selecting a location as they pass along. The whole, however, drop in noiseless quietness into their position, and the rapidity of their progress in clearing and settling a country, and covering it with towns, villages, and farm-houses, is only ascertained by the startling results of the census.

The southern settlers who immigrate to Missouri, and the country north-west of the Mississippi, by their show of waggons, flocks, and numbers, create observation, and are counted quite as numerous as they are. Ten waggons are often seen in company. It is a fair allowance, that a hundred cattle, besides swine, horses, and sheep, and six negroes, accompany each—the train, with the tinkling of a hundred bells, and the negroes wearing the delighted expression of a holiday suspension from labour in their countenances, forming one group, and the family moving slowly forward, forming another. As the cavalcade is seen advancing along the plains, it presents a pleasing and picturesque spectacle. The parties always make arrangements at night-fall to halt at a spring where there is wood and water, and a green sward for encampment. The dogs raise their accustomed domes-

* The statistical facts to be brought forward in these proposed papers will be drawn chiefly from Timothy Flint's Geography of the Mississippi Valley, an American work of great value, and to which we have been indebted for a portion of the above article.

tic baying. The teams are unharnessed, and the cattle and horses turned loose into the grass. The blacks are busy in spreading the cheerful table in the wilderness, and preparing the supper to which appetite and fatigue give a zest. They talk over the incidents of the past day, and anticipate those of the morrow. If wolves and owls are heard in the distance, these desert sounds serve to render the contrast of their society and security more sensible: their caravans do not, as in the case of those which traverse the African or Asiatic continent, dread the incursion of barbarian robbers, or the exactions of petty savage princes. They alike proceed and lie down in peace and security, every day plunging deeper and deeper into the forest or prairie, until they have found their place of rest.

The position for a cabin generally selected by the western settlers, is a gentle eminence near a spring, or what is called a *branch*, central to a spacious tract of fertile land. Such spots are frequently occupied by tulip and black walnut trees, intermixed with the most striking flowering shrubs of the western forest. Springs burst forth in the intervals between the high and low grounds. The brilliant red-bird, seen flitting among the shrubs, or perched on a tree, seems, with its mellow whistle, welcoming the strangers to their new abode. Flocks of paroquets are glittering among the trees, and gray squirrels are skipping from branch to branch. The chattering rings his echoing note among the woods, and the various domestic sounds produce a strange effect, as heard in the vicinity of these remote settlements. Pleasing reflections and happy associations are naturally connected with the contemplation of these beginnings of social life in the western wilderness.

In the midst of these solitary and primeval scenes, the patient and laborious father fixes his family. In a few days a comfortable cabin and outbuildings are erected, and a rude process of agriculture is begun to be exerted. The first year gives a plentiful crop of Indian corn, and common and sweet potatoes, melons, squashes, turnips, and other garden vegetables. The next year a field of wheat is added, and lines of thrifty apple-trees show among the denuded remains of the forest. If the immigrant possess any touch of horticultural taste, the finer kinds of pear, plum, cherry, peach, nectarine, and apricot trees, are found in the garden. Thus do improvements advance. In ten years, the original log-buildings will all have disappeared; the shrub and the forest-trees will be entirely gone. The Arcadian aspect of humble and retired abundance and comfort will have given place to a brick house, or a planted frame-house, with fences and outbuildings very like those that surround the farmsteadings in the olden countries.

It is a wise arrangement of Nature, that different minds are endowed with different tastes and predilections, that lead some to choose the town, others manufactures, and the village callings. It seems to us that no condition, in itself considered, promises more comfort, tends more to virtue and independence, than that of these yeomen of the western states of America, with their numerous, healthy, and happy children about them—with the ample abundance of their granaries—their habitations surrounded by orchards, the branches of which must be propped up to sustain their burden of fruit, beside their beautiful streams and cool beech woods, and the prospect of settling each of their children on similar farms directly around them. Their manners may have something of the roughness imparted by living in solitude among the trees; but it is kindly, hospitable, frank, and associated with traits, which, however liable to be ridiculed by those who travel to find fault, constitute the stability of the commonwealth. We apprehend such farmers would hardly be willing to exchange this plenty, and this range of their simple domains, their well-filled store-houses, and their droves of domestic animals, for any mode of life that a town can offer.

No order of things presents so palpable a view of the advancement of American institutions, as that which we thus faintly describe. The greater proportion of these immigrants, besides their wives, a few benches and chairs, a Bible, and a gun, commenced with little more than their hands. Their education, for the most part, extended no farther than a knowledge of reading and writing, and their aspirations had never strayed beyond the desire of conducting a farm. But a sense of relative consequence is fostered by their growing possessions, and by perceiving towns, counties, offices, and candidates, springing up around them. One becomes a justice of peace, another a county judge, and another a member of the legislative assembly. Each one assumes some municipal function, pertaining to schools, the settlement of a minister, the making of roads and bridges, and the execution of public works. A sense of responsibility to public opinion, self-respect, and a due estimation of character and correct deportment, are the consequences.

Such is the general condition and character of those adventurous settlers, who are now in the course of peopling the wide-spread prairies and forest clearings of the remote territories of the Union. In succeeding numbers, we shall endeavour to describe each individual state, its extent, local character, and applicability to the wants of emigrants, in order that a perfect idea may be obtained by the poor man of this great western world, prior to the annual period of emigration from this country.

GOOD ACTIONS.

VERY vague ideas obtain about good actions, and the praise due to them. To a common mind, the half-sovereign bestowed by the king upon a lame sailor, and the halfpenny given to an ordinary object of charity by some person little richer than himself; the money given through the impulse of humane feeling, and that which is tossed away to escape importunity, are the same thing. Nor does it matter whether a man dispenses from what he has fairly won and rightfully possesses, or only gives that which is more properly due to his creditors. The world in general sees only the *act of giving*; takes little consideration of the proportion between what is given and what remains; and hardly ever becomes acquainted with any of those circumstances in the giver, which so often, in the estimation of those who know him better, cause his beneficence to assume a foolish or a guilty aspect.

In reality, a so-called good action is only so under certain circumstances, all of which must be carefully considered before the deed becomes justly entitled to praise. We must first, above all things, know how much self-denial the individual had to exercise, before he could honestly do this action. If the good consisted in a dispensing of money, we must discover how much temptation he had to spend it upon his own gratification—of what value the sum was to a man in his circumstances. If the good deed consisted in the performance of some kind office, which cost trouble and time, we must ascertain the value of time to that individual, and the temptation he was under to confine his energies to his own business. If a man only gives away that which he could hardly be the better of keeping, or engages himself in humane offices which are rather an amusement to him than a cumber, then we can see little title he has to praise, except upon the score that he is *not* a miser when he *might* have been one, and has the good taste to prefer a beneficial to an useless kind of recreation. On this principle, a great discount must be made from the trumpeted bounties of very wealthy men and others—though not perhaps such a discount as some would be inclined to demand. An income may be large, but it can hardly be so much so as completely to transcend the capabilities of man to use it in a great measure upon his own gratifications. It matters not whether we take the weekly pound of the artisan, or the daily thousand of certain British grandees. The appetites, tastes, and habits of men are such, that a gratifying use may be found in every shilling of the money in both cases; and neither political economy nor instinctive justice can say any thing to the contrary. It is to be said, however, that of the larger class of incomes, a great deal must be spent upon luxuries—things not pressing needed—things which a good mind may be easily content to want, in order to obtain a greater gratification for a fellow-creature. As we ascend, therefore, higher and higher into the scale of incomes, we always find the more ample means of sparing for beneficent purposes, and the less self-denial required for enabling an individual to give. Hence, if one man be justly considered charitable, who gives away the fortieth part of an income of forty pounds a-year, a tenth part of an income of forty thousand would hardly entitle the possessor to the same reputation. The former gives where he is tempted to purchase necessities; the latter where he hardly knows what necessities are. The former gives, with the assurance before his eyes that the time is very likely to come when he might wish he had retained; the latter gives from a store which he is confident will always afford him the comforts of life. In fact, he who gives from an income above a competency, has no merit in his benefactions, except that, since he can only spend the superfluity upon luxuries of one kind or another, he approves himself to be a person of good heart and right mind if he prefers “the luxury of doing good” to certain others somewhat less rational.

In estimating an apparently good action, we must also take into account how far it is likely that the performer draws upon his own resources, gives the result of his own toil, and renounces what he could honestly convert to his own gratification. There are some people who are amazingly generous with other people's money. We could point out several individuals, now bankrupt in fortune, who used to enjoy a high character for goodness of heart and liberality to all in distress, and even yet have a kind of twilight fame on that account, though nothing can be more obvious than that their benevolence was at the expense of no self-denial to themselves, no labour, nothing but the

trouble of putting their hands into the pockets of their neighbours. The persons upon whom the expense ultimately fell, could have done three times more good with a third part of the money, and had the credit of it to themselves; but the world, which seldom forms a complicated idea, fails to see this. Now, there is nothing in such a case but injustice, and all injustice must be denounced. We would even exercise so vigilant a jealousy as to the benevolence of certain persons, that, unless we were favoured with a sight of their accounts, we would not give them credit for beneficence to the amount of a single penny. Another thing is to be considered—the appreciation of the money on the part of the giver. If a man gives a sixpence, with a full sense of the value of a sixpence, a recollection of what it cost him to gain it, and a prescience of the extent of service which it may be of to the receiver, he is, in our opinion, entitled to a thousand times more credit than he who tosses over his shoulder a half-crown which he did not gain, does not know how to gain, and of the value of which, either to himself or to the person receiving it, he is ignorant.

BIOGRAPHIC SKETCHES.

THE GOWS.

No name connected with Scottish music is so celebrated as that of Gow, which belonged to two individuals, father and son, who in this country long stood at the summit of professional excellence as violinists and composers.

Neil Gow, the father, was born of humble parents at Inver, near Dunkeld, in Perthshire, in March 1727. He was intended, it appears, for the trade of a plaid weaver, but discovering an early propensity to music, he began the study of the violin himself, and soon abandoned the shuttle for the bow. Up to the age of thirteen, he had no instructor; but about that time, he availed himself of some lessons from a follower of the house of Grandtully, and soon placed himself at the head of all the performers in the country, although Perthshire then produced more able reel and strathspey players than any other county in Scotland. Before he reached manhood, he had engaged in a public competition there, and carried off the prize, which was decided by an aged and blind, but skilful minstrel, who, in awarding it, said, that “he could distinguish the *stroke of Neil's bow* among a hundred players.” This ascendancy he ever after maintained, not only in his native place, but throughout Scotland, where it was universally admitted that, as a reel and strathspey player, he had no superior, and, indeed, no rival in his own time.

Living in the immediate neighbourhood of Dunkeld house, he was early noticed and distinguished by the Duke of Athol and his family, which was soon followed by the patronage of the Duchess of Gordon, and the principal nobility and gentry throughout Scotland. But while his permanent residence was at Inver, near Dunkeld, he was not only employed at all the balls and fashionable parties in the county, but was in almost constant requisition at the great parties which took place at Perth, Cupar, Dumfries, Edinburgh, and the principal towns in Scotland. So necessary was he on such occasions, and so much was his absence felt, that at one time, when indisposition prevented him attending the Cupar Hunt, the press called on every lady and gentleman present to “dedicate a bumper to the better health of Neil Gow, a true Scottish character, whose absence from the meeting no one could sufficiently regret.” In many instances, those skilled in the musical as well as other professions, commit the egregious error of allowing themselves to fall into dissipated habits, trusting that the possession of genius is in itself able to cover breaches in morals, and a multitude of faults and eccentricities. Neil Gow was not a person of this description. He was a man most exemplary in all the private relations of life—a faithful husband, an affectionate parent, and a generous friend. He was, moreover, possessed of a fund of broad humour, which rendered him a welcome guest wherever he visited.

In a professional point of view, Neil Gow is to be judged according to circumstances. He never had the advantage of great masters, and indeed was almost entirely self-taught. He did not, as far as is known, attempt the composition of difficult or concerted pieces. He was one of nature's musicians, and confined himself to what genius can conceive and execute, without the intervention of science. He composed a great number of tunes, nearly a hundred of which are to be found in the collections published by his son Nathaniel at Edinburgh. The greater portion of them are of a lively character, and suited for dancing, such as reels, strathspeys, and quick steps. It would not be interesting in a notice like this to enumerate the titles of so many compositions; but we may safely refer to the beautiful air “*Locherloch-side*,” to which Burns wrote his pathetic ballad, “*Oh! stay, sweet warbling woodlark, stay*,” and his “*Farewell to Whisky*,” as specimens which entitled him to take his place among the best known composers of Scottish music which our country has produced.

This celebrated man, “the famous Neil,” whose name continues in Scotland as familiar as a household

word, died in the village in which he was born, on the 1st of March 1807, in the eightieth year of his age, after acquiring a competence, which was divided among his children. He left behind him two sons and a daughter: John, who settled in London as leader of the fashionable Scottish bands, and who died in 1827, after acquiring a large fortune; Nathaniel; and Margaret, now the only surviving child, who is at present living in Edinburgh. Two sons, William and Andrew, also distinguished for their musical abilities, died before him.

Nathaniel Gow, who must be considered as having been the most eminent of his family or name, not only as a performer and composer, but as having, more than any other, advanced the cause and popularity of our national music during his time, was born at the birth-place of his father in Perthshire, in 1766. Nathaniel was indebted to his father for his first instructions. He commenced on a small violin commonly called a *kit*, on which his father Neil had also made his first essay, and which is still preserved in the family. At an early age he was sent to Edinburgh, where he continued the study of the violin, first under Robert McIntosh, or Red Rob, as he was styled, until the latter, from his celebrity, was called up to London. He next took lessons from M'Glashan, who was in high estimation as an excellent composer of Scottish airs, and an able and spirited leader of the fashionable bands. He studied the violoncello under Joseph Renegale, a person of some note in the musical world, who, after a long residence in Edinburgh, was appointed to the professorship of music at Oxford. After the death of M'Glashan, he continued under his elder brother William, whom he succeeded as a leader, a situation for which he was well fitted by his bold and spirited style; but having been cut off about the year 1791, at the early age of forty, Nathaniel took his place, and maintained it for nearly forty years, with a degree of success far beyond any thing that ever preceded or followed him.

So early as 1782, when not more than sixteen years of age, Nathaniel was appointed one of his majesty's trumpeters for Scotland, a situation almost sinecural, which he held during his life, with a small salary of £70 per annum. He had for many years previously, by assuming the lead of the fashionable bands, become known not only as an excellent violin player, but as a successful teacher, and as having arranged and prepared for publication the first three numbers of the collection of reels and strathspeys published by his father. So much, however, and so quickly did he advance in reputation after this, and so generally did he become acquainted with the great and fashionable world, that, in 1796, without giving up or abating his lucrative employment as leader, he commenced business as a music-seller on an extensive scale, in company with the late Mr William Shepherd, and, for fifteen or sixteen years, commanded the most extensive business perhaps ever enjoyed by any house in the line in Scotland. In 1813, however, after his partner's death, the business was wound up, and whatever profits he may have drawn during the subsistence of the partnership, he was obliged to pay up a considerable shortcoming at its close.

It was in 1799 that he continued the work commenced by his father and himself; and from that time till 1824, in addition to the three first collections, and two books of slow airs, dances, waltzes, &c., he published a fourth, fifth, and sixth collection of strathspeys and reels; three volumes of beauties, being a republication of the best airs in the three first collections, with additions—four volumes of a repository of Scots slow airs, strathspeys, and dances—two volumes of Scots vocal melodies, and a collection of ancient curious Scots melodies, besides a great many smaller publications, all arranged by himself for the harp, piano-forte, violin, and violoncello. During the life of his father, he was assisted by him, and the first numbers were published as the works of Neil Gow and Son. Many collections had been published previously by ingenious individuals, the best of which, perhaps, was that of Oswald; but Gow's collections, beyond all dispute, are the most extensive and most complete ever submitted to the public; embracing not only almost all that is good in others, but the greater part of the compositions of Neil and Nathaniel Gow, and other members of that musical family.

After an interval of a few years, Gow commenced music-seller once more, in company with his only son Neil, a young man of amiable and cultivated mind, who had received a finished education at Edinburgh and Paris for the profession of surgeon, but who, finding no favourable opening in that overstocked calling, and having a talent and love for music, abandoned it, and joined his father. This young gentleman, who was the composer of the beautiful melody of "Bonny Prince Charlie," and a great many others, was not spared to his father and friends, having been cut off by a lingering disease in 1823. The business was afterwards continued until 1827; but, wanting a proper head—Gow himself being unable to look after it—it dwindled away; and poor Gow, after a long life of toil, during which he had gathered considerable wealth, found himself a bankrupt at a time when age and infirmity prevented him from doing any thing to retrieve his fortunes.

It is difficult to describe the influence, success, and reputation of Nathaniel Gow, during all the time he conducted the fashionable bands in Edinburgh and throughout Scotland; but certain it is, that in these

respects he stands at the head of all that ever trod in the same department. Not only did he preside at the peers' balls, Caledonian Hunt balls, and at the parties of all the noble and fashionable of Edinburgh, but at most of the great meetings and parties that took place throughout Scotland; and in several instances he was summoned to England. No expense deterred individuals or public bodies from availing themselves of his services; and it appears from his memorandum books, that parties frequently paid him from one hundred to one hundred and fifty guineas, for attending at Perth, Dumfries, Inverness, &c., with his band. One of the first objects in the formation of fashionable parties, was to ascertain if Gow was disengaged, and they would be fixed, postponed, or altered, to suit his leisure and convenience. He visited London frequently, although he resisted many invitations to settle there permanently. While his evenings were occupied at the parties of the great, his days were not spent in idleness. He had as his pupils the children of the first families in the country, for the violin and piano-forte accompaniment; from whom he received the highest rate of fees known at the time.

Although thus engaged in the most extensively patronised musical establishment in Scotland, it is questionable if he ever at any time realised profit from it; while it is certain, that, towards the close, he was a great loser; indeed, it can seldom be otherwise where the proprietor has other avocations, and leaves the management to his servants. But from his balls, teaching, and playing, the emoluments he derived were very great; and he was at one time worth upwards of £20,000; but this was ultimately swept away; and he was forced, while prostrated by a malady from which he never recovered, to appeal to his old patrons and the public for their support, at a ball for his behoof, in March 1827, which he did by the following circular:—"When I formerly addressed my kind patrons and the public, I had no other claim than that which professional men generally have, whose exertions are devoted to the public amusement. By a patronage the most unvarying and flattering, I was placed in a situation of comfortable independence, and I looked forward without apprehension to passing the decline of my days in the bosom of my family, with competence and with happiness. Unfortunately for me, circumstances have changed. By obligations for friends, and losses in trade, my anxious savings have been gradually wasted, till now, when almost bed-ridden, unable to leave my house, or to follow my profession, I am forced to surrender the remnant of my means to pay my just and lawful creditors. In this situation, some generous friends have stepped forward, and persuaded me, that the recollection of my former efforts to please may not be so entirely effaced, as to induce the public to think that my day of distress should pass without notice or without sympathy."

The appeal was not in vain—the ball was crowded, and handsome tokens of remembrance were sent by many of his old friends, so that nearly £300 was produced. The ball was continued annually for three years afterwards, and though not so great as the first, they still yielded sufficient to prove the deep sympathy of the public, and to afford him a consolation and support in his hour of trial and sickness. It should not be omitted, that the noblemen and gentlemen of the Caledonian hunt, who had, during all his career, been his warmest patrons, voted fifty pounds per annum to him during his life.

Nathaniel Gow was a man of great shrewdness and good understanding—generally of a lively companionable turn, with a good deal of humour—very courteous in his manners; though, especially latterly, when misfortune and disease had soured him, a little hasty in his temper. The illness into which he fell came to a crisis in the beginning of 1831, and finally terminated in his death, on the 17th of January of that year, at the age of sixty-five. He was twice married, and left several sons and daughters, who still survive.*

A CHAPTER FOR THE INDUSTRIOUS.

A LITTLE pamphlet, entitled "Hints to the Working Classes, explanatory of their True Interests, and the Effects of Trades' Unions," has just fallen under our observation, and seems to contain some well-written opinions on the subject of which it professes to treat. The following observations are obviously congenial with the truest principles of political economy, and certainly worthy of the deepest consideration:—

"I shall endeavour to show (says the author) that it is not by restricting, but by encouraging industry, that the value of labour may be raised, and the true interests of the working classes promoted."

The general rate of wages is naturally regulated by the proportion which the supply of workmen bears to the demand for labour; therefore wages may be raised, either by encouraging emigration, and thereby diminishing the number of labourers, or by extending manufactures and agricultural improvements, and thereby increasing the employment of labour.

Britain, with its dependencies, presents a wide field for the consumption of our manufactures, but not nearly sufficient to receive all that we produce; when we look abroad, however, we find that the quantity which the foreign market is capable of receiving, is

fully limited by the cost at which we can furnish the supplies. The inhabitants of almost every country manufacture by far the greater proportion of the articles which they require for their own use; but whenever they find articles of foreign manufacture offered to them for sale at lower prices than they could make them for themselves, they purchase those articles, and employ their labour in some more profitable way. The extent of foreign demand, then, for our manufactures, under a free commercial system, depends entirely upon their comparative cheapness; and their cheapness depends upon the superiority of our powers of production over those of other people. Therefore, all new improvements in machinery, chemistry, &c., by means of which our powers of production are increased, and we are enabled to bring our goods to market at a cheaper rate, must add to the extent of our trade, raise the value of labour, and tend to improve the condition of the working classes.

It would be a foolish and short-sighted policy to reject the introduction of improved machinery into any manufacture, because its immediate effects might be to deprive a few people of employment. Any improvement in machinery which effects a saving of expense in the manufacture into which it is introduced—by superseding, in some degree, the necessity of employing manual labour—must, of course, cause a reduction in the price of the manufactured commodity; hence an increase of consumption, and an additional employment of labour and machinery to supply the demand; and as manufactures are so connected that one branch cannot be extended without extending others that are subsidiary, so an improvement in machinery, although it may diminish the number of persons employed in the particular branch that receives it, will almost invariably be found to cause an increase of employment upon the whole. Manufacturers are frequently forced, by the troublesome conduct of their workmen, to use machinery, when manual labour might be employed with equal advantage; but, under ordinary circumstances, machinery is never brought into operation, unless a great saving of expense is to be effected by its introduction, because a manufacturer will not invest capital in new machinery, unless, by doing so, he has a fair prospect, in the first instance, of obtaining considerable advantage. The introduction of the power-loom was one of those improvements which, in the first instance, appeared most alarming to the working classes; but it was, in a great measure, by means of that invention, that we were enabled to extend our cotton trade, and to compete successfully with the low prices paid for weaving in other countries. It is true, weavers' wages are not nearly so high as they were previous to the introduction of the power-loom, but their wages would have fallen independently of that event; because it was necessary that weaving should be done in this country at as low a rate as elsewhere, otherwise we should have lost the foreign part of that trade. Now, every one acquainted with the subject knows, that although the wages of weavers have been depressed, yet every branch of the cotton manufacture has been so extended, that, upon the whole, there has been a great increase of employment for labour; and the working classes generally have derived much benefit from the invention of the power-loom. Nor would the poor weavers have suffered so much in consequence of the introduction of that improvement, but for those cruel and arbitrary measures on the part of other operatives, who, by monopolising their respective trades, prevented the weavers from procuring other employment, and deriving their just share of the benefit which arose out of the increased demand and employment for labour. There are few improvements, however, that interfere so much with manual labour as the above; and most of them are introduced so gradually and imperceptibly, that their effects can hardly be traced, although, when combined with others, they become exceedingly important and valuable.

Next with regard to wages: If wages were fixed by law at a high rate, and population to continue to increase, the consequence would be, that a portion of workmen would be employed at the good rate of wages fixed by law, but the rest would be unemployed and reduced to beggary. On the other hand, if the rate fixed by law was too low, then all would be fully employed, but the most industrious and valuable workmen would be reduced to a level with the idle and ignorant; which proves that the restrictions well-meaning people would impose, for the better regulation of wages by boards of trade, &c., are worse than useless, in as much as their tendency is to prevent the extension of manufactures, and diminish the employment and value of labour.

The old-fashioned system of monopolies is fast breaking up: it was a system for giving the few some advantage at the expense of the many—a system which, carried to its full extent, would be the most injurious that could well be imagined, as it would be difficult to conceive a more efficient plan for arresting the progress of improvement. Yet there are some good people weak enough to regret the discontinuance of the system, and to predict all manner of evil from the effects of competition. Now, competition among all classes is the grand stimulus to industry and ingenuity, and it is only by industry and ingenuity that wealth and comfort can be maintained or increased.

It is not possible for workmen to raise the general rate of wages by such measures as the 'Trades' Unions' adopt; because their measures have not en-

* From two articles in the "Biography of Distinguished Scotsmen," by Robert Chambers.

dency to increase employment, but, on the contrary, by preventing the free exercise of industry and talents, they retard the progress of manufactures, and even endanger their transfer to other countries. Their plans are founded upon the selfish principle of every man protecting his own trade, that is to say, excluding as much as possible the employment of new hands; and by preventing fair competition in the market for labour, they endeavour to force their employers to pay higher wages. Now, it is quite evident, that, if they are successful by that means in obtaining higher wages to themselves than they are justly entitled to receive, it must be at the expense of their fellow-workmen who are kept out of employment, and the rest of the community; and they have no right to raise themselves by injuring others. But all attempts to raise wages by unjust and artificial means must, in the end, prove fruitless, and intelligent workmen should be convinced of this by the experience of late years. How many instances have they observed of labourers in particular employments attempting to raise their wages above their natural level by combinations—striking work—and after enduring great hardships and privation, submitting to lower wages than they had before! They are not aware of the extent of mischief they do to themselves by combining and refusing to work, or of the consequences which would follow if they were to succeed in establishing unnaturally high wages, otherwise they would never make the attempt. All that workmen should do is to prevent unnecessary depression of wages, which may be done without putting themselves to much trouble or expense. Let them individually, by the frugal management of their wages, save a little money, and thus place themselves in such circumstances that they are not obliged to accept of lower wages at every stagnation of trade. The comfort and happiness of a workman depends much more upon the good management and proper disposal of his earnings than upon their amount.

I have endeavoured to show, that wages never can be maintained above their natural level by artificial means; that their natural level depends upon the proportion which the population, or supply of workmen, bears to the demand for labour, or extent of employment; that the extent of employment depends upon our superior powers of production, improvements in machinery, and amount of accumulated capital; that the interest of the workman and his employer are the same; and that the prosperity of both depends upon their united industry and ingenuity.

We are now on the eve of having new fields opened up for the consumption of our manufactures, and it is of great consequence that nothing should prevent our enjoying the full advantage of that favourable circumstance. We are also obtaining relief from various restrictions which fettered commercial enterprise, and prevented our enjoyment of free trade with other countries; and we possess a government disposed to use every means for the encouragement of industry, and the improvement of the condition of the working classes. It remains, then, to be seen whether the people of this country are sufficiently virtuous to use their liberty with discretion, or whether they will continue to oppress each other, and run into all manner of wild and foolish excesses."

SERPENT HUNTING, AN ADVENTURE IN SOUTH AMERICA.

BUSINESS connected rather with pleasure than profit had kept me roaming for some months among the West India islands, that land of magnificence and discomfort; and from all that I heard there, and more particularly from what came under my own observation, I can truly affirm that to Europeans in general it is a land replete with novelty and interest, and to writers both of fiction and of truth, a field in which they may reap an abundant harvest of reputation. I at length found myself at Barbadoes, without any fixed resolution either to return or to proceed farther on in my wanderings. In such a wavering and unsettled state of mind, a little matter will sometimes turn the scale. I had carried a letter to a gentleman of the island, with whom I formed a most agreeable acquaintanceship; and in consequence of the description he gave me of the coast of South America, I was induced to form the resolution of visiting at least a part of that country before I should think of bending my course homewards. Being furnished by him with letters to one or two individuals who might be of service to me, I took a passage in a ship bound to Demerara, and after a voyage in no degree remarkable for shortness or novelty, I landed there in safety. I will not stop here to describe all I saw. Suffice it to say, that having viewed all I considered worthy of being noticed, I set off across the country to deliver one of the letters I carried with me to a gentleman from whose attention and knowledge I had been assured I should obtain much information. After a journey of some days, I reached the place; and considering that I had been previously an utter stranger, I was received with a degree of warmth and kindness I could scarcely have anticipated. The estate, or rather plantation, on which I had been so kindly invited to take up my residence for some time, and where I had resolved to spend a few weeks in examining the local scenery and curiosities, lay upon the banks of a river that comes down from the mountains of Guiana. Mr Heinvaunt (the proprietor), although the superintendence of his

estate occupied a great part of his time, contrived to devote no inconsiderable portion of it to my amusement. Accompanied by a couple of servants, and Caesar, a shrewd and active negro who held the post of hunter (a personage not only useful, but even necessary to those who reside on colonial estates distant from any town, as many of the delicacies of the table are furnished by him), we made frequent excursions up the country, and committed occasionally sad havoc among the quadrupeds and feathered tribes with which that region abounds. At other times we manned a couple of canoes, and descending the river, we employed ourselves in fishing excursions, or in taking a shot at such birds as unfortunately for themselves came within range of our pieces. Those who are acquainted with the general appearance and topography of the northern coast of South America, know well that from the flatness of the country as it approaches the sea, many rivers of considerable magnitude divide themselves into numerous streams or canals, before mingling their waters with those of the ocean. The deltas or islands formed by those streams are sometimes of great extent, consisting, like most of that coast, of marshy or savannah land, partly bare, and partly overrun by tall reeds and canes, or other aquatic plants. In the thick and almost impervious recesses of these, reptiles of various kinds often find a retreat, from which they occasionally emerge in search of their prey. The streams are in many places frequented by aquatic birds of the most variegated and beautiful plumage, and the waters afford several kinds of fish, which from their delicate and flavour amply repay the labour employed in taking them.

I had been informed, both by Mr Heinvaunt and Caesar, that serpents of a great size had been frequently seen by them crossing the lagoons from one island to another, and that by great exertion, and not without difficulty, they had succeeded in destroying a few. I confess I had been for some time anxious to discover one of these reptiles; not that I wished a close connection with it—far from it. The little I had seen of them had given me an aversion to them, and this feeling was much heightened by the numerous stories I had heard of their fearful powers of destruction and deglutition. I had no objections, however, to view one at a distance, "dragging its slow trembling length along." But in all our excursions nothing of this kind was to be seen, and I had begun to conceive some latent suspicions that Mr Heinvaunt and Caesar had a little exaggerated the number and size of the reptiles they had seen and destroyed. But an adventure soon after this befell me, which made me entirely change my opinion of their veracity, and convinced me that their account rather fell short of than exceeded the truth. Occasionally when pressing business detained Mr Heinvaunt at his plantation, or called him to a distance, and when I found time hang heavy on my hands, Caesar was always willing to volunteer his services as my guide and assistant in any rambles which I wished to undertake; and a clever and active fellow I indeed found him. He was a capital shot, and unequalled in the success with which he contrived to hook his fish when not one would look at the bait belonging to another.

One day about two or three weeks after my arrival, Mr Heinvaunt informed me that he was under the necessity of going to a plantation distant about ten miles, and as the way lay partly through the woods and trackless savannahs, he was obliged to take Caesar with him, he being the only one on the estate who had a thorough knowledge of the way, and who, from his dexterity and address, proved a useful and agreeable attendant. He added, that he should be back early in the afternoon, and that if I wished to take a stroll, or go on the water, any of the rest of his people should be at my disposal. After Mr Heinvaunt had rode away, I strolled about the plantation an hour or two, looking at every thing to amuse myself; but getting terribly wearied with doing nothing, I told one of the people to get the lines ready, for it was my intention to go out a-fishing for some time, the day being rather warm and sultry for enjoying a shooting excursion. These being soon ready, I sent likewise for my gun, and declining the offer he made to attend me, I pushed out into the stream, and dropped slowly down the river. The current being very slow, I was a while in reaching the place where the river branches off into a number of streams. I guided my canoe into one of those in which I had formerly been along with Caesar, and where our sport had been very good. The stream was not in general above eighteen or twenty feet wide. I "paddled my light canoe" up and down this, trying to get a shot at some of the beautiful birds which often frequent these lagoons. But the birds were scarce and shy. Fatigued with this unsuccessful sport, I set the lines, and paddling about for some time, I drew them up; but whether they had not been baited as well as Caesar used to do it, or whether the fish were as shy as the birds, I cannot tell; but after a few trials I got tired of this sport likewise. Thinking I would be more successful elsewhere, I proceeded about a quarter of a mile farther down, and set the lines. By this time the day had become exceedingly sultry and oppressive. Seeing there was no prospect of a shot, I took off my stockings and shoes, and bathed my feet in the water, and, working my canoe to the other side, I laid my gun ready loaded for a shot upon the benches, and stretched myself alongside of it, waiting till it was time to draw the lines which I had set. In this position I fell asleep, over-

come, as I suppose, by the heat of the day, and the fatigue I had undergone.

I know not how long I may have slept; but I was roused from my slumber by a curious sensation, as if some animal were licking my foot. In that state of half stupor felt after immediately awaking from sleep, I cast my eyes downward, and never till my dying day shall I forget the thrill of horror that passed through my frame on perceiving the neck and head of a monstrous serpent covering my foot with saliva, preparatory, as immediately flashed upon my mind, to commencing the process of swallowing it. I had faced death in many shapes—on the ocean—on the battle-field; but never till that moment had I conceived he could approach me in a guise so terrible. For a moment, and but a moment, I was fascinated. But recollection of my state soon came to my aid, and I quickly withdrew my foot from the monster, which was all the while glaring upon me with its basilisk eyes, and at the same moment I instinctively grasped my gun, which was lying loaded beside me. The reptile, apparently disturbed by my motion (I conceive it had previously, from my inattention, taken me for a dead carcass), drew its head below the level of the canoe. I had just sufficient time to raise myself half up, pointing the muzzle of my piece in the direction of the serpent, when its neck and head again appeared moving backwards and forwards, as if in search of the object it had lost. The muzzle of my gun was within a yard or two of it: my finger was on the trigger: I fired, and it received the shot in its head. Rearing up part of its body into the air with a horrible hiss, which made my blood run cold—and, by its contortions, displaying to my sight great part of its enormous bulk, which had hitherto escaped my notice—it seemed ready to throw itself upon me, and to embrace me in its monstrous coils. Dropping my gun, by a single stroke of the paddles I made the canoe shoot up the stream out of his reach. Just as I was escaping, I could observe that the shot had taken effect, for blood was beginning to drop from its head. But the wound appeared rather to have enraged than subdued him. Unfortunately, all my shot was expended, otherwise I would most certainly, at a respectable distance, have given him a salutation of the same kind as I had just bestowed. All that I have described passed in a much shorter time than I have taken up in recounting it.

As I went up the stream with all the velocity I could impart to the canoe, I heard the reeds, among which the animal was apparently taking refuge, crashing under its weight. I never once thought of the lines I had left; but hurrying as fast as the canoe would go through the water, I was not long in reaching the landing-place below Mr Heinvaunt's house. Hastily mooring the canoe, I jumped ashore, and hurried up to the house, where I found Mr Heinvaunt, who had just arrived. You may be certain I lost no time in communicating to him the almost miraculous escape I had made, and the wound I had inflicted on the animal. "In that case," said he, "it cannot escape; we must immediately go in search of it;" and instantly summoning Caesar, he told him to get the guns ready, and to bring two of his fellows with him. "If you choose to assist us in finishing the adventure you have begun, and to have a second encounter with your novel antagonist, we shall show you some of the best and most dangerous sport our country affords." I protested that nothing was farther from my intention than staying behind, and added, that had not my shot been expended, we should not have parted on so easy terms. "In general," said he, "it is very dangerous to attack them at close quarters after being wounded, as they become extremely infuriated; and there are not wanting instances in which life has been sacrificed by doing so. But we now take such precaution in approaching them, that it is next to impossible that any accident can happen." Just as he finished saying this, Caesar re-appeared, himself armed with a club, one of those who followed him carrying a weapon of the same kind, while the other was armed with a weapon similar to a billhook. This Mr Heinvaunt told me was to clear a road among the reeds, if the animal should have retreated among them; the club being reckoned the best instrument for a close encounter. We were soon seated in the canoes, and gliding down the stream as fast as a couple of pairs of brawny arms could urge us. In a short time we reached the spot where my adventure had happened. The small part of the bank not covered with reeds, bore, from its sanguine hue, evident proof that the wound the animal had received could not have been slight. Exactly opposite this the reeds were crushed and broken, and a sort of passage was formed among them so wide, that a man could with little difficulty enter. Mr Heinvaunt commanded a halt, to see that the arms were in proper order. All being right, we listened attentively, in order to hear if there was any noise which might direct us to our enemy. No sound, however, was heard. One of the negroes entered first, clearing with his billhook whatever obstructed our way. He was followed by Mr Heinvaunt and me, with our guns; while Caesar and his fellow-servant brought up the rear. The reeds were in general nearly double our height, and at the same time pretty close. However, we easily made our way through them, partly assisted by the track which the serpent had evidently made.

We had penetrated, I should suppose, about thirty yards, when the fellow who was in advance gave the alarm that we were close upon the animal. Mr Hein-

vault ordered him behind, and, advancing along with me, we saw through the reeds part of the body of the monster coiled up, and part of it stretched out; but owing to their thickness its head was invisible. Disturbed, and apparently irritated by our approach, it appeared, from its movements, about to turn and assail us. We had our guns ready, and just as we caught a glimpse of its head, we fired, both of us almost at the same moment. From the obstruction of the reeds, all our shot could not have taken effect; but what did take effect, seemed to be sufficient; for it fell, hissing, and rolling itself into a variety of contortions. Even yet it was dangerous to approach it. But Caesar, who seemed to possess a great deal of coolness and audacity, motioning his master and me not to fire again in the direction of the animal, forced a way through the reeds at one side, and, making a kind of circuit, came in before it, and succeeded in hitting it a violent blow, which completely stunned it; and a few repetitions of this gave us the victory. We could now examine the creature with safety. We found that a good part of our shot had lodged about its head and neck, and would probably have proved fatal to it, even if we had left it to its fate. I confess it was not without a shudder that I handled and examined it, when I thought how nearly I had escaped from furnishing it with a meal.

We set ourselves to work, and not without difficulty did we succeed in dragging the huge carcase to the edge of the stream, and in embarking it in one of the canoes, to which it formed a pretty fair lading. It was not far from sunset when the expedition landed on the bank near Mr Heinvaalt's house. He soon got sufficient assistance in conveying the carcase up, and in depositing it in a place of safety. On measuring it, we found it to be nearly forty feet in length, and of proportional thickness. Mr Heinvaalt informed me that it was the largest he had seen killed, although he had often seen others under circumstances which convinced him that they must have been of a far greater size.

It was not until I was seated at a late dinner, that I felt myself a little overcome by the unusual exertion I had undergone on so sultry and oppressive a day. But as the evening wore on, I completely recovered; and never do I recollect spending a more agreeable one. The adventure, however, and the consciousness of my escape, must have been deeply impressed upon my mind; for, during some months after, I often started from my sleep with the cold sweat upon my brow, imagining myself crushed and expiring in the embraces of a horrid reptile.*

THE GAME OF GOLF.

IN Scotland there prevail two sports for which there is hardly a parallel in the adjoining country: namely, golf and curling. The former is practised on commons, or any other kind of open grounds, it being only necessary that the grass should be very short. The chief implement is a club, called the golf, consisting of a long slender wand, and a loaded mass at the end, together with a small ball of leather, stuffed to great hardness with feathers, which is impelled by the above instrument, and to get which into a distant hole by the fewest strokes constitutes the game. The word *golf* is supposed to be derived from the German noun *kolbe*, a club. The game is very ancient, and has not been always confined to Scotland. In Strutt's "Sports and Pastimes of the People of England," it is mentioned, that "there are many games played with the ball, that require the assistance of a club or bat, and probably the most ancient among them is the pastime now distinguished by the name of golf. In the northern part of the kingdom, golf is much practised. It answers to a rustic pastime of the Romans, which they played with a ball of leather stuffed with feathers, called *paganica*, and the golf-ball is composed of the same materials to this day. In the reign of Edward the Third, the Latin name *cambuca* was applied to this pastime, and it derived the denomination, no doubt, from the crooked club or bat with which it was played."

It seems to be quite uncertain at what period the game of golf was introduced into Scotland; but it may be fairly presumed that this amusement, as well as football and archery, were practised to a considerable extent in the reign of our King James the First.

King Charles the First was much attached to the amusement of golfing, and, on his visit to Scotland in 1641, was engaged in it on Leith Links, when intimation was given him of the rebellion in Ireland; whereupon he threw down his club, and returned in great agitation to Holyroodhouse.

The Duke of York, afterwards James the Second, also delighted in the game. By joining publicly in it and other sports, he softened down among the Scottish nobility much of the prejudice excited by his unpopular principles; while his duchess equally pleased the ladies by treating them with *tea*, which had not till then been seen in the kingdom.

Many names might be added of illustrious individuals, who, in days gone by, as well as in more modern times, found relaxation and delight in practising the game; but none will create greater interest than that of Lord President Forbes. He is said to have been so keen a golfer as to play on the Sands at Leith,

if the Links happened at any time to be covered with snow.

The mode of playing the game does not appear to be the same in all countries—at least the practice in Holland is different from that of England and Scotland. The method among us seems to resemble that of the Romans more than the Dutch. The game of the latter is particularly described in the following interesting communication, in the Statistical Account, by Dr Alexander Walker of Edinburgh, to Dr Carlyle of Inveresk:—

"The Dutch game called *kolf*, from which the word *golf* is derived, as both are probably from the Greek word *kolophos*, is played in an enclosed rectangular area of about sixty feet by twenty-five. The floor, which is a composition of sand, clay, and pitch, is made as level as a billiard-table; and the enclosing walls are for two feet above the floor, faced either with polished stone or sheet-lead, that they may cause the ball to rebound with accuracy. At about eight or ten feet from each end wall, a circular post of about five inches diameter is placed precisely in the middle of the area with regard to breadth, consequently opposite the one to the other, and at the distance of forty feet, or thereby. The balls used in the game are about the size of cricket-balls, made perfectly round and elastic, covered with soft leather, and sewed with fine wire. The clubs are from three to four feet long, with stiff shafts. The heads are of brass; and the face, with which the ball is struck, is perfectly smooth, having no inclination, such as might have a tendency to raise the ball from the ground. The angle which the head makes with the shaft, is nearly the same with that of the putting clubs used at golf. The game may be played by any number, either in parties against each other, or each person for himself; and the contest is, who shall hit the two posts in the fewest strokes, and make his ball retreat from the last one with such an accurate length, as that it shall lie nearest to the opposite end wall of the area. The first stroke is made from within a few inches of what is called the beginning post, and the player directs his ball as precisely as he can on the opposite one, that he may hit it if possible, computing at the same time the force of his stroke, so that, should he miss it (which from the distance may be supposed to be most frequently the case), his ball may rebound from the end wall, and lie within a moderate distance of the post, and before it; that is, between the two posts, rather than between the post and the end wall. The reason of preferring this situation of the ball will appear by reflecting how much easier it is, in that case, to send the ball, after striking the post, back again towards the other one. The skill of the game consists in striking the post in such a way, whether full or otherwise, as may send the ball towards the place where you wish it to rest. It combines the address required both in golf and in billiards. Five points make the game; and such is the difference between a capital and an ordinary player, that the former will give four points of the game, and frequently be the winner. This superiority of play I experienced myself at a *kolf baan* near the Hague, after I had considerable practice in the game, and was, in fact, no mean player. With the advantage of three points I was completely beaten; and even when I got four, I could hardly preserve any tolerable equality. There is generally a kind of apartment at one end of the *kolf baan*, two or three steps higher than the floor, where spectators may enjoy the sight of the game, as far as the clouds of tobacco smoke, with which they commonly fill it, will allow."

The game has been long known in India; and the following notice of the mode in which it is practised, is given from a letter addressed to the secretary of the Musselburgh club by one of its members, whose attainment in the knowledge of eastern languages is of a very high order:—

"The Indian, or rather the Persian, name of the game, is *govy* (strongly resembling the Scotch pronunciation of golf, viz. 'gouf'), meaning 'the ball'; and sometimes called 'chougan o govy,' or club and ball. The game is considered a royal one in the East, and is uniformly played on horseback. The club (according to the representation I have seen in pretty old Persian paintings of a party at play) is bent at the end, and somewhat like our own clubs. The handle, agreeable to the same drawing, seemed a good deal shorter, so as when a player was about to strike the ball, he was necessarily obliged to throw his body downward to the right side of his horse, with the chougan in his right hand, whilst he grasped the bridle, and guided his steed (usually at full gallop) with the left. The manuscript in which I saw the representation, was a highly celebrated work on the ancient history of Persia, by Ferdousi, esteemed one of the best Persian poets."

The game of *Palle Maille*, or *Pall Mail*, which is mentioned in Strutt's book, as bearing a resemblance to golf, was played by striking a ball with a mallet through a high arch of iron, the merit consisting in doing so at the fewest number of strokes. Charles the Second and his courtiers practised this game in St James's Park, where there is a walk still called the *Mall*; the name being supposed to be derived from the mallet with which the game was played.

The question seems to have been once agitated, whether the game of golf was peculiar to England or Scotland. The importance of the inquiry is scarcely such as to command great investigation; but there is

a tradition connected with it, which, if an ancient mode of determining disputed points be a correct one, must be considered as settling the matter for ever at rest. It is related as follows:—

"Two English noblemen, who, during their attendance at the Scottish court, had, among other fashionable amusements of the period, occasionally practised golf, were one day debating the question with his Highness the Duke of York, whether that amusement were peculiar to Scotland or England; and, having some difficulty in coming to an issue on the subject, it was proposed to decide the question by an appeal to the game itself; the Englishmen agreeing to rest the legitimacy of their national pretensions as golfers, together with a large sum of money, on the result of a match, to be played with his highness, and any Scotchman he could bring forward. The duke, whose great aim at that time was popularity, thinking this no bad opportunity both for asserting his claim to the character of a Scotchman, and for flattering a national prejudice, immediately accepted the challenge, and, in the meantime, caused diligent inquiry to be made as to where the most efficient partner was to be found. The person recommended to him for this purpose was a poor man, named John Paterson, a shoemaker, who was not only reputed the best golf-player of his day, but whose ancestors had been equally celebrated from time immemorial.

On the matter being explained to him, Paterson was not quite satisfied as to how he should be able to acquit himself in such great company; but on the duke encouraging him, he said he would do his best.

The match was played, in which the duke was of course completely victorious; and the shoemaker was dismissed with a reward corresponding to the importance of his service, being an equal share of the stake played for.

With this money he immediately built himself a comfortable house in the Canongate, upon the wall of which the duke caused an escutcheon to be affixed, bearing the arms of the family of Paterson, surmounted by a crest, a dexter hand grasping a golf club—Motto, 'Far and sure.'

The house alluded to is situated on the north side of the Canongate, a little above Queensberry House."

The town of Musselburgh has been long famous for superior golfers, the beautiful and extensive links on both sides of the Esk being an incitement to the practice of the athletic exercise. A golf club was established there in the year 1774, and included among its members the most respectable gentlemen in the parish. To encourage the exercise of the game, they procured a handsome silver cup, which is played for annually, and a year's possession of it, and the honour of being captain of the club, are the gainer's trophies. He is bound to append a medal to the cup when he restores it.

The game also flourishes at Edinburgh and Leith, and still more remarkably, perhaps, at St Andrews, where very large stakes are sometimes played for, and where there is a regular manufactory of balls, both for home consumption and exportation.

EDUCATION.

[BY JOHN BOWKING.]

A child is born—now take the germ, and make it
A bud of moral beauty. Let the dews
Of knowledge, and the light of virtue, wake it
In richest fragrance and in purest hues;
When passion's gust, and sorrow's tempest shake it,
The shelter of affection ne'er refuse,
For soon the gathering hand of death will break it
From its weak stem of life—and it shall lose
All power to charm; but if that lovely flower
Hath swell'd one pleasure, or subdued one pain,
O who shall say that it has lived in vain,
However fugitive its breathing hour?
For virtue leaves its sweets wherever tasted.
And scattered truth is never, never wasted.

—*Amulet*, 1828.

Since the publication of the article entitled "The Last Execution in the Grassmarket," we have had documents presented to us, which give a considerably different colour to the criminality of the culprit Andrews. It appears that he was, in reality, concerned in the maltreatment and robbery of the man Dykes, and was altogether a less innocent and estimable a member of society than our first information gave us to suppose. The article, in other respects, is correct. The jury upon Andrews's trial returned a verdict of guilty, from a servile respect to the bearing of the indictment, and not because they deemed his criminality worthy of the punishment of death; and, as already intimated, they were much chagrined on finding that their recommendation to mercy, upon which they had relied for the means of neutralising their decision, was of no avail.

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